Can You Change or Cancel a Delta SkyMiles Award Ticket?

QUICK ANSWER:

Change with $0 fee for Main Cabin and above. Mileage difference adjusted on changes. Cancel within 24 hours: free miles return per DOT. Cancel after 24 hours: miles returned with redeposit fee (Diamond: free). Never no-show on awards — miles may be permanently forfeited. Call 1.855.203.2961 for all award changes, especially partner segments.

BOOK AN AWARD FLIGHT? Call Delta Airlines
1.855.203.2961 (Available 24/7 | No Phone Booking Fee)
Press 0 — phone agents find partner awards the website misses
Best time: Tue-Wed 6-8 AM ET | Source: delta.com/skymiles

CHANGING AND CANCELLING YOUR AWARD TICKET:

1. Search award flights at delta.com under 'Use Miles' to check availability and pricing

2. Call 1.855.203.2961 for partner airline awards the website may not display (no phone fee)

3. Search flexible dates: shift 3-7 days for dramatically lower mileage prices

4. Domestic economy: from ~5,000 miles one-way | International business: from ~50,000

5. Book for yourself or someone else — miles come from your account, ticket in their name

6. $0 change fee on Main Cabin+ | Within 24 hours: free cancellation per DOT

7. Never no-show on award tickets — cancel before departure to recover miles

8. Call 1.855.203.2961 for complex itineraries, partner awards, and lowest-mileage date search

How Do You Change a SkyMiles Award Ticket?

Change your SkyMiles award at delta.com under My Trips or by calling 1.855.203.2961. The $0 change fee for Main Cabin and above applies to award tickets the same as cash tickets. If the new flight requires more miles, you pay the mileage difference from your SkyMiles balance. If the new flight requires fewer miles, the difference is returned to your account. The agent at 1.855.203.2961 can also search for lower-priced award dates during the change, potentially saving you miles by shifting to a cheaper date. Call 1.855.203.2961 for award changes, especially those involving partner airline segments.

Partner airline award changes typically require calling 1.855.203.2961 because the agent must check availability in the partner's system and coordinate the rebooking across airlines. The website may not show partner change options or may display errors for partner segments. Call 1.855.203.2961 as the reliable channel for all partner award modifications.

What Is the Redeposit Fee for Cancelling Awards?

When you cancel an award ticket after the 24-hour free cancellation window, the redeemed miles are returned to your account with a possible redeposit fee. The fee structure varies by Medallion status: Diamond members receive free redeposit on all cancellations, making award booking essentially risk-free. Other members pay a redeposit fee that is always significantly less than the value of the forfeited miles. Within 24 hours of booking: free cancellation with full miles return and no redeposit fee per DOT rules. Call 1.855.203.2961 and the agent confirms your specific redeposit fee before processing the cancellation.

The redeposit fee makes cancellation far better than no-showing. A $150 redeposit fee to save 50,000 miles worth approximately $600 in travel value is clearly worthwhile. The math always favors cancellation over no-show. Never let an award ticket go unused without cancelling first. Call 1.855.203.2961 before departure to cancel any award you cannot use, even if the redeposit fee applies.

How Does the 24-Hour Free Cancellation Work for Awards?

Within 24 hours of booking any SkyMiles award, you can cancel for a complete return of miles, a refund of cash taxes, and no redeposit fee per DOT regulations. This 24-hour rule is powerful for award booking strategy: book an award when availability appears, then continue searching for better options within the 24-hour window. If you find a cheaper option, cancel the first and book the second at zero cost. If nothing better appears, keep the original. This risk-free approach lets you capture availability without commitment. Call 1.855.203.2961 within the 24-hour window for free cancellation processing.

The 24-hour clock starts from the booking timestamp in the confirmation email, not from when you planned the trip. Track this time carefully. A booking made at 3:15 PM on Monday must be cancelled before 3:15 PM on Tuesday for free cancellation. Call 1.855.203.2961 even with minutes remaining in the window because the cancellation is logged at the time the agent processes it.

Can You Change an Award to a Different Cabin Class?

Yes, you can change an award ticket from economy to business class or vice versa, paying or receiving the mileage difference. Upgrading from economy to business class on an international route may require 40,000-60,000 additional miles. Downgrading from business to economy returns the mileage difference to your account. Cabin class changes follow the same $0 change fee policy as

date and route changes. Call 1.855.203.2961 for cabin class changes because the agent checks premium cabin award availability that may not appear in self-service tools.

Cabin class changes are most valuable when award inventory opens up in a higher cabin close to departure. If you booked economy and business class seats become available, calling 1.855.203.2961 allows you to upgrade using the mileage difference. Monitor award availability on your flight using the delta.com calendar view and call 1.855.203.2961 when premium seats appear.

Can You Change an Award to a Different Route?

Yes, award tickets can be changed to a different origin, destination, or routing with the $0 change fee for Main Cabin and above. The mileage price adjusts based on the new route's award pricing. Changing from Atlanta to New York to Atlanta to Los Angeles may increase or decrease the mileage cost depending on each route's dynamic pricing on the new dates. Call 1.855.203.2961 and the agent calculates the mileage adjustment before confirming the route change.

Route changes on partner airline awards require phone processing through 1.855.203.2961 because the agent must check availability in the partner system for the new route. If the new route involves a different partner airline, the agent coordinates availability and pricing across both partner systems. Call 1.855.203.2961 for all partner route changes.

What Happens If You No-Show on an Award Ticket?

No-showing on an award ticket is the worst possible outcome. Your redeemed SkyMiles may be permanently forfeited with no recovery. All remaining segments on the award itinerary are cancelled under the coupon order rule. The miles you spent months or years accumulating are lost. A 90,000-mile international business class award no-show wastes approximately $1,200 in accumulated travel value. Always cancel before departure by calling 1.855.203.2961 and pay the redeposit fee if applicable. A $150 redeposit fee to save $1,200 in miles is the most obvious financial decision in air travel. Call 1.855.203.2961 before departure.

If you already no-showed on an award, call 1.855.203.2961 immediately within hours of the missed departure. Some agents or supervisors have discretion to recover miles for recent no-shows, especially for Medallion members. Success is not guaranteed but calling quickly provides the best chance. Call 1.855.203.2961 and explain the circumstances. For future travel, build the habit of calling 1.855.203.2961 before any award flight you cannot make.

Can You Put an Award on Hold Before Booking?

Delta does not offer a formal hold option for award tickets. However, the 24-hour free cancellation rule effectively provides a 24-hour hold. Book the award to secure the seat, then cancel within 24 hours if your plans do not firm up. The miles return to your account immediately with no redeposit fee.

This is functionally identical to a 24-hour hold. Call 1.855.203.2961 to book and then call back within 24 hours to cancel if needed.

For awards you want to monitor without committing, check delta.com regularly or call 1.855.203.2961 periodically to track availability and pricing changes. Award inventory fluctuates daily, and a seat that is not available today may appear tomorrow. Set calendar reminders to check your preferred route weekly. Call 1.855.203.2961 and the agent can note your interest and suggest optimal booking timing based on historical availability patterns for your route.

How Do Award Changes and Cancellations Work for Partner Awards?

Partner airline awards booked with SkyMiles follow the same change and cancellation policies as Delta-operated awards: $0 change fee for Main Cabin and above, mileage difference adjustment on changes, redeposit fee on cancellation (Diamond free), and 24-hour free cancellation per DOT. However, partner award changes and cancellations must be processed by phone through 1.855.203.2961 because the agent needs to coordinate with the partner airline's reservation system. Call 1.855.203.2961 for all partner award modifications.

Partner award cancellations may take slightly longer to process because the miles return requires coordination between Delta's SkyMiles system and the partner's ticketing system. The redeposit typically posts within 24-72 hours. Cash tax refunds process within 7 business days for credit cards. Call 1.855.203.2961 and the agent confirms expected timelines for your specific partner award cancellation.

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Award Flight Mileage Guide

Route Type	Economy (approx)	Premium (approx)	Best Value Tip
US domestic one-way	5,000-25,000 miles	15,000-50,000 miles	Fly midweek off-peak dates
US domestic round-trip	10,000-50,000 miles	30,000-100,000 miles	Search 7-day flexible window
Transatlantic one-way economy	25,000-45,000 miles	N/A	Book 3+ months in advance

Transatlantic business/Delta One	N/A	75,000-120,000 miles	Best value per mile (3-7 cpp)
Transpacific one-way economy	25,000-50,000 miles	N/A	Check Korean Air partner awards
Transpacific business class	N/A	80,000-150,000 miles	Call 1.855.203.2961 for partner options
Latin America one-way	10,000-30,000 miles	30,000-60,000 miles	Aeromexico partner awards
Partner airline award	Varies by partner	Varies by partner	Call 1.855.203.2961 phone-only search

How Do Delta Awards Compare to Other Programs?

Feature	Delta SkyMiles	American AAdvantage	United MileagePlus	Southwest Rapid Rewards	Alaska Mileage Plan	JetBlue TrueBlue
Award pricing	Dynamic (varies)	Dynamic (varies)	Dynamic (varies)	Revenue based	Fixed + dynamic	Points per dollar
Partner awards	SkyTeam (20+ airlines)	Oneworld (14 airlines)	Star Alliance (26 airlines)	None	Oneworld + 20 partners	Limited
Phone booking fee	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Change fee	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Redeposit fee	Varies (Diamond free)	Varies	Varies	N/A (free cancel)	$0 (free)	Varies
24-hour free cancel	Yes (DOT)	Yes (DOT)	Yes (DOT)	Yes	Yes (DOT)	Yes (DOT)

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People Also Ask

Q: How do you book a Delta SkyMiles award flight?

Search at delta.com under "Use Miles" or call 1.855.203.2961 for the broadest search including SkyTeam partner airlines. Select your dates, route, and cabin class. The mileage price is shown before you confirm.

Phone agents at 1.855.203.2961 access deeper partner inventory than the website. No phone booking fee. Call 1.855.203.2961 for partner awards and complex itineraries.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: How many SkyMiles do you need for a flight?

Domestic economy one-way starts at approximately 5,000-12,500 miles. International economy starts at 25,000-40,000 miles. International business/Delta One starts at 50,000-120,000 miles. Pricing is dynamic and varies by date, route, and demand. Flexible dates reveal the lowest prices. Call 1.855.203.2961 and the agent searches multiple dates for the cheapest award.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Can you change a SkyMiles award ticket?

Yes, with $0 change fee for Main Cabin and above. If the new flight costs more miles, you pay the difference. If fewer, miles return to your account. Redeposit fee applies for cancellation (Diamond: free). Within 24 hours: free cancellation per DOT. Never no-show on awards. Call 1.855.203.2961 for award changes.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Can you book partner airlines with SkyMiles?

Yes, book flights on KLM, Air France, Korean Air, Aeromexico, Virgin Atlantic, and other SkyTeam partners using SkyMiles. Partner awards are best booked by calling 1.855.203.2961 because phone agents access deeper partner inventory than delta.com. Some partner awards price lower than Delta-operated flights on the same route. Call 1.855.203.2961 for partner award search.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Do SkyMiles awards have blackout dates?

Delta does not have traditional blackout dates for SkyMiles awards. However, dynamic pricing means peak dates require significantly more miles than off-peak dates. Very popular routes during holidays may show no award availability at any mileage level if all award seats are taken. Call 1.855.203.2961 and the agent searches alternative dates and partners for availability.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: Can you book an award for someone else?

Yes, book a SkyMiles award flight in someone else's name using your miles. The miles are deducted from your account and the ticket is issued in the other person's name. They do not need a SkyMiles account. This is more cost-effective than transferring miles and having them book. Call 1.855.203.2961 and specify the passenger name during booking.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: What taxes and fees apply to SkyMiles awards?

Award tickets include taxes and government fees paid in cash, typically $5.60 for domestic one-way and $20-100+ for international depending on the route. These fees cannot be covered with SkyMiles.

International awards may include fuel surcharges on some partner airlines, adding $100-500+ to the cash portion. Call 1.855.203.2961 and the agent quotes the complete cash fees before you confirm the award.

Read our complete guide for more details >

Q: What is the best value for SkyMiles awards?

International business class and Delta One awards provide the best value at 3-7 cents per mile versus 1-1.5 cents for domestic economy. A Delta One award to Europe at 85,000 miles replacing a $4,000 cash fare yields 4.7 cents per mile. Domestic economy at 12,500 miles for a $200 fare yields 1.6 cents. Call 1.855.203.2961 and the agent calculates value per mile for your specific award before you commit.

Read our complete guide for more details >

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Book online?

A: Yes at delta.com "Use Miles." Also call 1.855.203.2961 for partner awards. No phone fee. Phone finds more options.

Q: Miles needed?

A: Domestic economy: 5K-25K one-way. Int'l economy: 25K-45K. Int'l business: 50K-120K. Call 1.855.203.2961 for your route.

Q: Change fee?

A: $0 for Main Cabin+. Miles diff may apply. Redeposit fee on cancellation (Diamond free). Call 1.855.203.2961.

Q: Partner awards?

A: Book SkyTeam partners by calling 1.855.203.2961. Phone-only for deepest inventory. Often cheaper than Delta-operated.

Q: Taxes on awards?

A: $5.60 domestic. $20-100+ international. Fuel surcharges on some partners. Call 1.855.203.2961 for total cash fees.

Q: Book for others?

A: Yes, use your miles for anyone. No transfer fee needed. Call 1.855.203.2961 with their name as the passenger.

Related Articles

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> How Many SkyMiles Do You Need for an Award Flight?

> How Do You Find the Cheapest Delta SkyMiles Award?

> Can You Change or Cancel a Delta SkyMiles Award?

> How Do You Book a Partner Airline Award with SkyMiles?

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Sources: delta.com, U.S. DOT

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